After Reading: Save the Last Word for Me

Save the Last Word for Me provides a framework for student review of materials. The discussion encourages students to share ideas and opinions. Since the discussion takes place in a small group, students who typically do not participate in large discussions are more comfortable joining in the review.

Steps:

**1.** Assign a story, selection, or passage. As students read, they should mark statements that they find interesting or statements they want to talk about. The statements could be ones they agree or disagree with. The statements may be ones that surprised, excited, or puzzled them. Students can lightly mark the statements with a pencil or attach a sticky note.

**2.** Provide each student with 3 to 5 index cards. (The more cards, the longer the time needed to complete the activity.) Each student writes a statement on the front of a card. On the back side, the student writes a response or comments. Students complete the front/back of a card for each of their marked statements.

**3.** Divide the class into small groups. (The larger the group, the longer the time needed to complete the activity.) Students select a member to begin the sharing process. The selected student reads the front of one card and then shows the card to the other students in the group. Each of the other students responds to the card. Following their responses, the first student tells his or her opinion and ideas.

**4.** After all cards are discussed, the group selects one card, and one student reports the group’s discussion and ideas to the larger class.